International and Interdisciplinary Conference

Pentecostalism and Politics

February 1-2, 2013 – Heidelberg, Germany

Conference Theme
In many contexts worldwide, the growth of Pentecostal and Charismatic Christianity has had a lasting influence on the local politics and political cultures. The academic evaluation of this impact, however, is inconclusive at best. There are competing narratives about the political stance of Pentecostals from characterizing them as “apolitical/quietist” to “activist-modern-progressive,” and more. So far, the debate often lack theoretical and methodological reflection, as the plural and politicized phenomenon of Pentecostalism is reduced to a religious category, which is then held up against a secular and essentialist concept of “the political”.

The conference seeks to address precisely these conceptual issues in understanding Pentecostalism and politics from an interdisciplinary point of view. The keynotes will present theoretical insights in how to overcome an essentialist view of “Pentecostalism” and/or “politics” from the vantage points of political science, religious studies, and theology. They are grounded in regional expertise and will therefore sketch a new approach to Pentecostal politics by way of concrete examples.

In addition to the keynotes, there will be two parallel sessions with workshops presenting and discussion ongoing research on global Pentecostal and Charismatic movements.

Keynote Presenters and Respondents

Prof. Dr. Allan Anderson, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK
Prof. Dr. Luke Bretherton, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA
Prof. Dr. Gastón Espinosa, Claremont McKenna College, Claremont, CA, USA
Prof. Dr. Andreas Heuser, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland
Prof. Dr. Ruth Marshall, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
Prof. Dr. Timothy Steigenga, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL, USA
Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany
Prof. Dr. Rudolf von Sinner, Escola Superior de Teologia, São Leopoldo/Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

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Programme
(Note: the order and setup of panels in the parallel sessions may still be subject to changes.)

1 February 2013 (Friday)
11:30–12:30 Registration and Refreshments
12:45–13:00 Conference Welcome
   Jörg Haustein

13:00–14:30 Plenary Session 1
   Timothy Steigenga – Pentecostalization, Politics, Religious Change in Latin America: New Insights into Old Questions
   Rudolf von Sinner – Response

14:30–15:00 Refreshments

15:00–17:30 Parallel Session 1
   Panel 1.01: Global Networks & Studies
   Room: SHH Downstairs
   Hans Geir Aasmundsen – Pentecostalism and Politics: A Question of Compatibility?
   Candy Gunther Brown – About Power: Pentecostal Healing as a Political Practice
   Gina Lende – What Happens to Pentecostalism When it Becomes Large?
   Yan Suarsana – The Mukti Revival and Pentecostal Historiography

Panel 1.02: Pentecostalism & Islam
Room: Kiga I
   Tomas Sundnes Drønen – Pentecostalism, Globalisation and Islam in Northern Cameroon. Megachurches in the Making?
   Giovanni Maltese – Politics and Society in Filipino Pentecostalism on Negros (Oriental)
   Hans Olsson – A Culture 'Against Culture'? Pentecostal Christianity in Contemporary Zanzibar
   Marcin Rzepka – Speaking in Tongues or Just in Persian? Pentecostalism, Language Policy and the Problem of Identity in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Panel 1.03: Pentecostalism & Politics in Africa
Room: ÖInst
   J. Kwabena Asamoah-Gyadu – Religion and the Politics of Defamation: Charismatic Christianity, the Media and Democratic Elections in Africa
   Sarah Demart – Pentecostalism and Politics in Congo (DRC): Pentecotization of the Political Field or Political Liturgies' Legacy?
   Adetunji Olusunkanmi – The Church Has the Figure, But the Politicians Have the People: Examination of the Dichotomy Between Faith and Praxis Among Kenyan Pentecostals
   Michael Perry Tettey – Latent Power and Presence: Pentecostal-Charismatic Engagements in Ghanaian Political Life
   Donatus Pius Ukpong – Nigerian Pentecostalism and the Public Square: A Case Study of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

17:30–18:00 Refreshments

18:00–19:30 Plenary Session 2
   Prof. Dr. Ruth Marshall – Speaking in Tongues: Pentecostalism and the Language of Politics
   Prof. Dr. Andreas Heuser – Response

19:30 Social Gathering
2 February 2013 (Saturday)

09:00-10:30 Plenary Session 3
Prof. Dr. Luke Bretherton – Pentecostalism and Political Witness: Eschatology, Democracy and Political Economy
Prof. Dr. Allan Anderson – Response

10:30-11:00 Refreshments

11:00-13:00 Parallel Session 2
Panel 2.01: Pentecostalism & Migration
Room: Kiga I
Allan Anderson – Eritrean Pentecostals as Asylum Seekers in Britain
Stian Eriksen – The Migrant Churches in Norway: A Study of Their Spirituality as It Relates to Identity, Worship and Mission
Elisabeth Mareels – Videira Comes to Europe: Missionaries Across Social Borders, Teaching a Sound Life Style to Brazilian Migrants in Brussels

Panel 2.02: Pentecostalism & Politics in Eastern Europe and Russia
Room: Kiga II
Torsten Löstedt – Keeping Pandora’s Box Open Just a Crack: Russian Pentecostal and Orthodox Views of Demons
Vasile Marchis – A Theology of Mission for Romanian Pentecostals: An Integrative Approach
Štěpán Ripka – Related to Cultural Fathers, Descendants of a Natural God: The Traditionalization of Pentecostal Roma Through the Ideology of Family
Roman Poplavsky – Pentecostals in Russia: The Need for Inculturation and Perspectives of Political Participation

Panel 2.03: Pentecostalism & Politics in the Americas
Room: ÖInst
Richard Bustraan – Methodological Reflections on Pentecostalism and Politics from the Jesus People
Daniel Frei – Pentecostalism and Politics in Chile
Kijan Bloomfield Maxam – (Re)Defining the “Political”– Pentecostal Witness in Jamaica
Daniel Silliman – Understanding the Idea of Spiritual Warfare in Contemporary Pentecostal Fiction

Panel 2.04: Pentecostal Theology & Contextualization
Room: SHH Downstairs
Paul Clark – German Pentecostalism: Origin, Development and Structure (1945-2005)
Sang Yun Lee – The Threefold Blessing as a Contextual Hope in the Korean Pentecostal Context
Eric Williams – Black Pentecostalism Between Worlds: Ithiel Clemmons and the Critical Tradition of African American Pentecostal Theology

13:00-14:30 Lunch break

14:30-16:00 Plenary Session 4
Gastón Espinosa – Religion, Politics, and Presidential Elections: Pentecostalism and Politics in the USA
Jan Stievermann – Response

16:00-16:30 Conference summary and farewell
Michael Bergunder